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Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 1:34 PM

To: Purdy, Linda <Linda.Purdy@vermont.gov>

Cc: Clark, Charity <Charity.Clark@vermont.gov>; Murray, Elizabeth <emurray2@freepressmedia.com>

Subject: Forte transcript

Ms. Purdy,

I'm a reporter from USA TODAY. We are hoping to obtain a copy of the original trial for Leonard Forte, which your office has apparently located. I have tried since September 2019 to locate either transcripts or audio of the trial. The stenographer notes and audio are not obtainable from the courts, and I was told by regional court clerk Laurie Canty, who personally searched for them, that their record of the original trial had been destroyed. When I asked David Tartter, the public of the prosecution of the case for decades, about acquiring the trial transcript, he told me via email: "But if the court doesn't have the stenographer notes, I can't imagine where they would be. They won't be in the files of either the State's Attorney or the AG's Office."

As I'm sure you are aware, there is a presumption of public access for court proceedings and resulting transcripts. Allowing such access seems even more important for a case that has garnered intense public interest. If I need to file a public records request for the transcript, I will do so, but I'm hoping that if that is the case the request is expedited due to the confusion and misinformation concerning the existence of this record. Please let me know!

Best,

Gus Garcia-Roberts
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